



Lower Trinity

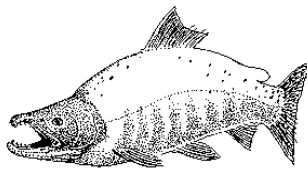
Site Handbook





Watershed Stewards Project Mission

The mission of the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project is to conserve, restore, and enhance anadromous watersheds for future generations by linking education with high quality scientific practices.



Sockeye Salmon



Table of Contents

Introduction.....	4
Site Description.....	4
General Calendar of Duties at <Site Name>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Description of Site Duties.....	6
ISPs and Outreach Events.....	7
ISP Information	7
Outreach Information	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Calendar of Outreach Events for Site / Community (Optional).....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Education	8
Education Notes.....	8
Site / Region Specific Education Resources	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Local Ecology	9
Descriptions of Local Ecology.....	9
Housing and Local Resources	10
Housing Contact List.....	10
Local Resource Contacts.....	10
Community Information	11
Map of Area	11
Community Demographics.....	11
Community Services	12
Entertainment and Community Events	13
Resources for Affordable Entertainment Options	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Recurring Event List.....	13
Helpful Hints	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Title	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Attachments	14
Contact Lists	14
Ed Logs & Information	14
ISP Logs & Information.....	14
Outreach Summaries & Information	14
Site Protocols & Information	14
Site Forms.....	14



Introduction

Site Description

Location 580 Highway 96, Willow Creek, 95573

Agency Affiliation Lower Trinity Ranger District, US Forest Service

General Ecology Willow Creek is a small community nestled in scenic mountains and salmon-filled rivers. Members enjoy access to great swimming holes, fishing, trails and boating opportunities. It may feel remote, but it is within an hour from Weaverville and Eureka/Arcata, and a couple hours from the Trinity Alps and Marble Mountain Wilderness.



General Calendar of Duties at Lower Trinity

<i>Month</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Site Duties</i>	<i>Work Load</i>	<i>Typical Work Hours</i>
Fall				
September				
October	LT, Orleans Office/Field	Start Spawning Ground Surveys, finish prep. and planning. Orientation to site, safety and expectations review	med - high	M-F 8 – 4:30. Some days longer, flex Friday
November	LT, Orleans Office/Field	Spawning Ground Surveys, data management	high	M-F 8 – 4:30. Some days longer, flex Friday
Winter				
December	LT, Orleans Office Field	Spawning Ground Surveys, data management	high	M-F 8 – 4:30. Some days longer, flex Friday
January	LT, Orleans Office/Field/ Classroom	Spawning Ground Surveys, data management, Steelhead and coho surveys if possible, prep for classroom/ start classroom.	Med - high	M-F 8 – 4:30. Some days longer, flex Friday
February	LT, Orleans Office/Field/ Classroom	Finish data management for spawning ground surveys, classroom.	Med - high	M-F 8 – 4:30. Some days longer, flex Friday
Spring				
March	LT, Orleans Office/Field/ Classroom	DSMT prep and possible trap placement, classroom should be completed	Med - high	5 days a week, 8 hours a day
April	LT, Orleans Office/Field/ Classroom	DSMT, Classroom, data management	high	7 days a week, 8 hours a day Flex schedule
May	LT, Orleans Office/Field	DSMT, data management, Fire safe days (1 day). Fish Fair planning	high	7 days a week, 8 hours a day Flex schedule
Summer				
June	LT, Orleans Office/Field	DSMT, data management. Start juvenile coho surveys. Launch temperature loggers. Fish fair (1 day). Fish derby (1 day). Habitat surveys	high	7 days a week, 8 hours a day Flex schedule
July	LT, Orleans Office/Field	Finish DSMT, data management. Coho juvenile dives, spring Chinook dives, summer steelhead dives, coastal cutthroat dive (Smith River). Habitat surveys	high	7 days a week, 8 hours a day Flex schedule
August	LT, Orleans Field	Wooley Creek dives, finish juvenile dives, habitat surveys. End of season wrap-up.	high	M-F 8 – 4:30. Some days longer, flex Friday



Description of Site Duties

The Lower Trinity fisheries department is in the process of re-building after a five year lapse. This site will keep you busy with an emphasis on community outreach, education and field work.

Members at USFS Willow Creek will have the opportunity to support, plan, and facilitate many outreach events in the community. The Real Science curriculum is an important outreach tool for local schools, as they are extremely rural and benefit from AmeriCorp WSP interaction tremendously. The curriculum is created by the members and is a great way to provide high quality and hands on education opportunities for Trinity River kids. There are three local school from which members can choose to focus their Real Science efforts; Trinity Valley Elementary School, Burnt Ranch Elementary School, and Creekside Arts and Education Charter School.. Fish Fair is an environmental and educational event that reaches over 1000 students across 5 schools in the Klamath-Trinity district, members will help plan and coordinate this event in partnership with Orleans WSP members and the Fish Fair committee. The Skycrest Lake Youth Fish Derby and Firewise Days are a great opportunity for public outreach and members can be creative in an educational and fun booth to teach kids about fish. Additional community events are available to participate in including FireSafe Days and Bigfoot Birding Days.

The Trinity River is a very enjoyable place to do field work. The fall is comprised of walking surveys of major tributaries of the Trinity River for Chinook, coho and steelhead spawning ground redd surveys, as well as snorkel surveys on the Salmon River. After the holidays and spawning ground surveys are completed, depending on water levels, the winter brings data entry, QA/QC, Real Science preparation, and beginning to teach in the classroom. The spring and early summer focuses on counting and measuring juvenile salmon in the downstream migrant traps (possibly in Orleans or starting a limited trapping season at Lower Trinity). Summer time is comprised of snorkel surveys for juvenile and adult salmon and stream habitat surveys. Restoration of Horse Linto Creek is an ongoing project.



ISPs and Outreach Events

ISP Information

Most ISPs take place in late spring/ early summer when the field season slows down. The actual events can be varied. They range from pulling noxious weeds, improving local trails and trash clean-up. Keep yourself aware of what is going on in other departments at the Forest Service (like the Recreation department). There are plenty of opportunities to take on some responsibilities with something they're already working on and make it your ISP. In addition to the Forest Service, there are various community organizations, such as Dream Quest Youth Center, Creekside Arts and Education Charter School, and Willow Creek Community Service district to partner with.

Community Events

Dates/Event Contact Information

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • <i>Big Foot Birding Days</i> | • 530-627-3262 April |
| • <i>Fire Safe Fair</i> | • 530 629 3438 May |
| • <i>Fish Fair</i> | • 530-625-2318 x2318 June |
| • <i>Fish Derby (Willow Creek)</i> | • 530-629-3438 June |
| • <i>Smith River Dives</i> | • End of July |
| • <i>Salmon River Dives</i> | • July/August |



Education

Education Notes

The goal is to cover as many schools on the Trinity River as possible, this site as a heavy emphasis on education. Being such a rural area, outside influence is limited, and kids benefit from positive role models. Trinity Valley Elementary School has a long history of Real Science outreach and the support of many enthusiastic teachers. Burnt Ranch Elementary School is a small, but well run school east of Willow Creek. Creekside Arts and Education Charter School is a small 30 student school in Willow Creek for independent studies, they are very open to involvement with WSP.



Local Ecology

Descriptions of Local Ecology

<i>Mountains</i>	The landscape is composed of striking, steep mountains covered in various species of conifers and hardwoods.
<i>Rivers</i>	This site is located on the Six Rivers National Forest, there are ample opportunities to work and recreate on the local rivers. Highway 299, one of the main highways here, run along the incredibly scenic Trinity River, which is also the source of plenty of political controversy and strongly held beliefs involving the Central Valley Project Dams (Trinity Dam and Lewiston Dam). Highway 96, the other main highway, runs along the Trinity and Klamath. Further north is the pristine Salmon River. Member housing is located at the Forest Service Salyer Guard Station east of Willow Creek a few miles
<i>Trails</i>	Great backpacking and hiking trails in the surrounding area. Marble Mountain Wilderness, Trinity Alps Wilderness and Redwood National and State Parks on the coast.
<i>Wildflowers</i>	You'll notice the seasons by the wildflowers—new species in bloom every 2-3 weeks during the spring and summer along every meadow, roadside, and riverbank.
<i>Wildlife</i>	Aside from the salmon, there are bears, foxes, osprey, bald eagles, heron, spotted owls, sturgeon, western toads, foothill yellow-legged frogs and beavers.
<i>Weather</i>	Mild winters—snow and rain. Temps: 20s-50s. The USFS barracks house is thermostat controlled and a swamp cooler is in the living room. Warm, mostly sunny springs: 60s-80s. Hot, dry summers 80s-100s with fairly active fire season. Fall is everyone's favorite season, with changing colors, sunny skies and milder temps.
<i>Native Culture</i>	The local Hoopa Tribe has been making great strides to maintain and revive their culture here, and are influential players in the management and research of the natural resources. Many of the local experts are tribal elders or ceremonial leaders, and they play strongly into the scientific and political action going on around here.



Housing and Local Resources

Housing Contact List

Currently housing is available for members in separate male and female houses/barracks. They are located at the Forest Service station in Salyer, CA, 5.5 miles east of Willow Creek on Hwy 299.. A payment plan will be worked out, but the monthly rate is approximately \$200/month.

Local Resource Contacts



Community Information

Map of Area

Community Demographics

Willow Creek is a rugged mountain community nestled in the heart of the Six Rivers National Forest.

Just a 45-minute drive inland is an escape from the fog and cool temperatures on the coast. But make sure you look out for Bigfoot. Located on the border of Humboldt and Trinity Counties. State Highways 299 and 96 access to the outside world. Willow Creek is a small community of 2,000 residents that was settled in the 1850s by pioneers in search of gold. At that time, the town was known as China Flat and served as a gold mining supply point.

More than 1 million acres of Six Rivers National Forest surround the town, and combined with the bright blue waters of the Trinity River, the area is an outdoor enthusiast's dream. Willow Creek is a favored destination for rafters, hikers, birders and fishermen and draws visitors from far and wide every summer. The town is also a favorite summer-home destination for many coastal Humboldt County residents.

- From the Willow Creek Chamber of Commerce website



Community Services

The town's China Flat Museum is a fun spot to visit and get a feel for the area's American Indian history and art, and offers an opportunity to step back in time with the pioneers and gold miners. Special events include an annual celebration of Bigfoot Days. Over Labor Day weekend, Bigfoot fans turn out hoping to catch a glimpse of their elusive furry friend.

The Willow Creek Golf and Country Club, a library, two banks, a park and campgrounds are just some of the services available in and around the town. Creekside Park is a shady toddlers playground and includes a playhouse, picnic area and disc golf course called "The Steelhead Course".

Wineries and farming are an up-and-coming industry for Willow Creek.

Recreationists are discovering that Willow Creek is centrally located for many outdoor sport activities. With four distinct seasons and temperate climates, they are surprised to find that this area receives very little snow. The rain, however, averages 50-70 inches per year.

-From the Willow Creek Chamber of Commerce website



Community Events

Recurring Event List

- *Big Foot Birding Days*
- *Fish Fair*
- *Fish Derby (Willow Creek)*
- *Fire Safe Days*
- *Smith River Dives*
- *Salmon River Dives*
- *BigFoot Days*

There are a lot of local events that occur in and around the communities from Weaverville which is one hour to the east and Arcata/Eureka which is 45 min. to one hour to the West. Arcata has lots of community events and is greatly influenced by the presence of Humboldt State University.



Attachments

Contact Lists

Ed Logs & Information

ISP Logs & Information

Outreach Summaries & Information

Site Protocols & Information

Site Forms